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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/575,021

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Russell Vaughan Meddes

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EXAMINER

BERGIN, JAMES S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3641

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/08/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/575,021	Applicant(s) MEDDES ET AL.	
	Examiner JAMES BERGIN	Art Unit 3641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10-23, 25 and 27-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15, 16, 19-23, 25, 27 and 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10-14, 17, 18 and 29-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. New claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In new claim 33, the precise meaning of the limitation, “*provide the liner with tuned characteristics*” is unknown. In what sense is the liner being “*tuned*”? What properties of the liner are covered by the term “characteristics?”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 29, 30, 32 and new claim 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Collins et al. (US 6,371,219 B1).

Regarding claims 1 and 32, Collins et al. clearly disclose a shaped charge perforator 24 for mounting in a perforating gun 12, the gun 12 used in a method of forming perforations in a well-bore (col. 2, lines 30 – 41; Figs. 1, 2). Collins et al. disclose that the liner 28 of the shaped charge are made from a molding which

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comprises a metallic loaded polymer matrix (col. 2, line 42 – col. 3, line 60). It is inherent that the metal of the metallic loaded polymer matrix does not comprise a precise/ exact uniform distribution of the metal in the polymer matrix. It is therefore inherent that at least some small portion of the Collins et al. liner comprises a somewhat different ratio of metallic filler to polymer matrix than other portions of the Collins et al. liner.

Regarding claim 29, it is inherent that the metallic filler of the Collins et al. liner is not precisely/ exactly uniformly distributed throughout its extent.

Regarding claim 30, it is inherent that the thickness of the Collins et al. liner is not precisely/ exactly uniform in thickness throughout its extent.

Regarding new claim 33, the Collins et al. liner inherently has tuned characteristics by virtue of its composition. It is noted that new claim 33 is not drawn to a method of tuning a liner such that it have specific tuned characteristics.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 10-13, 17, 18 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. (US 6,371,219 B1).

Regarding claims 10 and 11, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the metallic filler volume in the range 45% to 85% or in the range 45% to 65%, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Regarding claims 12 and 13, to size the metallic filler particles of a substantially uniform size that lies in the range of 10-250 nm would have been an obvious design choice within the skill level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made.

Regarding claim 17, to provide the ratio of metallic filler density to matrix density being substantially unity would have been an obvious design choice within the skill level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made.

Regarding claim 18, to provide the metallic filler with a density in the range between 0.5 gcm⁻³ and 5 gcm⁻³ would have been an obvious design choice within the skill level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made.

Regarding claim 31, to match the density of metallic filler to the density of the plastics material in the Collins et al. liner would have been an obvious design choice within the skill level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made.

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. (US 6,371,219 B1) in view of GB 968,507.

Collins et al. do not disclose that the filler is a fiber. However, GB 968,507 discloses a fiber filler in a shaped charge liner (see at least claims 1 and 2). To include fiber filler in the Collins et al. liner would have been an obvious design choice within the skill level of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 3/22/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner maintains the rejections and makes them final. The examiner believes that he has properly used the "broadest reasonable interpretation" standard in interpreting the claims and has also properly interpreted the features that are inherent to Collins et al.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES S. BERGIN whose telephone number is (571)272-6872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Wednesday and Friday, 8.30 - 5.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 571-272-6873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James S. Bergin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3641

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